

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-08 OES-06 SP-02 IO-13
IGA-02 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00
STR-04 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 AGRE-00 HEW-04
CU-02 /084 W

-----150221Z 026661 /72-70

R 141718Z MAR 77

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3253

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 3272

AMEMBASSY BANJUL

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

USMISSION OECD PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE EC BRUSSELS 2449

DEPT PASS AID/AFR

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID EEC

SUBJECT: EC AID TO CLUB DES AMIS DU SAHEL REGION

REF: (A) OECD PARIS 3587 (B) EC BRUSSELS A-097

(C) EC BRUSSELS 645 (NOTAL) (D) EC BRUSSELS A-067

1. REF A ASKED FOR EC INDICATIVE AID PROGRAM FIGURES FOR MAURITANIA, GAMBIA AND CAPE VERDE. EC COMMISSION OFFICIALS INFORM US THAT EC HAS EARMARKED 35 MILLION UNITS OF ACCOUNT (MUA, ABOUT \$39 MILLION) FOR MAURITANIA, THE BULK OF WHICH WILL GO TO HELP IMPROVE THE ROAD FROM NOUAKCHOTT TO KIFFA. THE PROGRAM FOR THE GAMBIA IS SET IN LOCAL CURRENCY; IT HAS EQUIVALENT VALUE OF 6.8 MILLION POUNDS STERLING (ABOUT \$10.2 MILLION). THE EC HAS ALREADY GRANTED NEARLY ONE MILLION POUNDS FOR AN AGRICULTURAL CREDIT PROJECT IN THE UPPER RIVER AREA OF GAMBIA. IT ALSO PLANS TO SUPPORT A FISHERIES

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PROJECT, TO IMPROVE JOINTLY WITH THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK BANJUL'S SEWAGE SYSTEM, AND TO ASSIST THE AGRICULTURAL TRAINING COLLEGE. NO PROGRAM FOR CAPE VERDE HAS YET BEEN DRAWN UP; THE EC PLANS TO SEND A PROGRAM MISSION THERE IN JUNE. AS INDICATED IN REF B, THE EC TENTATIVELY IS CONSIDERING ABOUT 6 MUA FOR THE ISLANDS; THIS SUM WOULD INCLUDE STABEX TRANSFERS AND EC ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES, HOWEVER.

2. BESIDES BILATERAL PROGRAM AID, THE EC IS PROPOSING SEVERAL MAJOR REGIONAL PROJECTS WHICH WOULD INCLUDE THESE COUNTRIES. (SEE REF D.) THE EC HAS EARMARKED 15 MUA FOR IMPROVEMENT OF THE SENGAL RIVER VALLEY AND 8 MUA FOR A BRIDGE OVER THE GAMBIA RIVER.

3. EC INDICATIVE AID PROGRAMS FROM THE FOURTH EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT FUND TO THE SEVEN CLUB DU SAHEL COUNTRIES TOTAL ABOUT 325.5 MUA (ABOUT \$361 MILLION). THESE FUNDS SHOULD BE COMMITTED BY APRIL 1980, WHEN THE LOME CONVENTION EXPIRES. PER REF D, THE EC ALSO PLANS TO PROVIDE SUBSTANTIAL ADDITIONAL FUNDS TO THESE COUNTRIES UNDER ITS REGIONAL PROJECTS. HINTON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ECBRU02449
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770087-0961
Format: TEL
From: EC BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770364/aaaacduy.tel
Line Count: 74
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 0c5f7bb8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 OECD PARIS 3587, 77 EC BRUSSELS A-97, 77 EC BRUSSELS 645, 77 EC BRUSSELS A-67
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3121271
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EC AID TO CLUB DES AMIS DU SAHEL REGION
TAGS: EAID, GA, MR, CV, EEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0c5f7bb8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009